

The Great Experiences of Life

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am beginning to think about what I am grateful for. I feel fortunate, and there are many things I'm thankful for. However, there are three that stand out: the community of Nonquitt, Ciudad Ducal, and my greatest memories.

I am extremely thankful for the community of Nonquitt in South Dartmouth, MA. There is so much to do there. My favorite thing to do is spend time with my cousins at their beach house. It is a long four to five hour drive but it is certainly worth it. I love waking up to the bright sun shining through the guest bedroom window. I usually get cold feet as I lightly step onto the cold wood floor in the morning. When I go visit my cousins there in the summer time, I go to the community camp called Camp Nonquitt. One can do so many different activities such as kayaking, swimming at the beach and tennis. Every morning my cousins and I ride our bikes to camp and back. In fact, we ride our bikes everywhere. For example, we ride to the beach, or maybe to get ice cream. After camp my cousins and I usually either swim since the house is right on the water, play soccer in the backyard, or hang out in the clubhouse. We usually play soccer until dinner time when Melba, their housekeeper, calls us in for dinner. We run to the hose and rinse our filthy feet clean. Melba doesn't let us into the house if we don't. Some nights we will sit down in the living room and watch a movie, and some nights we just watch the sun begin to set and quietly play cards. Nonquitt makes me feel as if nothing matters. It helps me forget about all bad things in this world and just calmly watch the still ocean against the peachy pink horizon. Like most people, the ocean must rest.

I am very thankful for Ciudad Ducal, which in English means City of Dukes. It is a small community in Spain in which my grandfather has a house. Here everybody has their own summer house and kids can ride on their bikes safely. It lies in the

mountains outside of Madrid where birds constantly chirp and squirrels nibble at the pine that falls from the trees. I personally love riding my bike to the pool and back with the wind in my face and the pine scent filling my nose. It gives me a feeling of freedom and joy. I have to admit my grandfather's house is not the nicest as it has some annoying bugs sometimes but you get used to it. It's a very peaceful community where families relax and try to let the warm sun soothe them. My family goes every year for about a week. For me, it is a place where I can just shut myself out from the world and enjoy each moment. It's as if I were camping. Obviously there's a house to sleep in with a nice kitchen but it's not the same as home. In Ciudad Ducal, kids put away their electronics and either go to the pool or play ping pong like I do in my yard. The point is to interact or socialize with other families or friends. I never want to lose Ciudad Ducal because that would mean losing the chance to make friends and spend quality time with my family.

Lastly, I'm grateful for some really special memories. They are not of a particular place but they are very important in my life. Memories are things you cannot keep from happening. They are like short films playing over and over again in my head. I believe they are what make up someone's life and without memories one would feel empty. My memories are all different and unique in their own way. For example, one memory is the time my friend and I were driving to soccer practice and we saw a clown driving the car next to us. That is one of my humorous memories. One of my exciting memories is the time I won my first soccer game. It meant so much to me as a young and little girl. One could just see the joy in my eyes as if they were sparkling. Memories are a very important part of my life and I look forward to creating many more in the future.

Life is full of great experiences. It is important to be grateful for all that one has. In my life it is the summer with all its memories that I'm most thankful for.